



St Woolos Quarterly

The Newsletter of Newport Cathedral

Llythyr Newyddion Eglwys Gadeiriol Casnewydd

Easter 2016

Welcoming others as Christ himself

'Let all ... be received like Christ.'

Thus writes St Benedict in his *Rule* for monasteries and his words have since been taken as essential wisdom for Christian people and churches: everyone who comes here is Christ coming for us to recognize. Christ walks the streets in the heart of every human person and behind every human face and it is the Christian calling to testify to that by word and deed.

Words alone are useless, as the Bible teaches, and Jesus says that we shall be known by the 'fruits' of our religion, not just by the words we speak.

This Cathedral sits on a traffic island, isolated from its surroundings by a wall, a fence and a graveyard. How are we to expect people to know they are welcome here? The fact is, it is our job to reach out to people and to *go to them* in whatever way we can. Each person does that in her or his own way but we have to be seen to do it *as a community; as a church*. How we worship and what we preach should not just encourage this but *actually cause it to happen* – or our religion is pointless. It can be judged by its outcomes, not by how many people show up to church.

The Cathedral is opening up, not because we are trying to but because it is what God does when let loose in people.

It has been our huge privilege to welcome Christ in the guests who have come to us in our participation in the Newport Night Shelter scheme. Volunteers have learned more about their faith and what it means to them, and their generosity and sense of having *received*, rather than of having given, has been humbling. We hope, next, to start playing our part in providing food bags for those who need them. People perhaps younger and less mobile have said they hope to be of use in this way.

(And the pub project has not gone away – it's just in lengthy process of development, to help us welcome more.)

The Cathedral itself now looks welcoming and available and groups are coming to use the space, exhibitions are increasing in number, drawing more people to visit and ponder.

God's up to something here. But then, God is always up to something - everywhere.

Lister Tonge.
Dean.



The Stations of the Cross - Exhibition in the Cathedral
Paintings by Nigel Pugh Lent 2016

Easter 2016



There will be a full programme of Services at the Cathedral during Lent, including Palm Sunday, Easter Week, Good Friday and Easter Day. For details, please refer to the Cathedral website www.newportcathedral.org.uk 'Special Services' page.

Worship at St Woolos

Regular service times are below: on special occasions these may change

Sunday

8.00 Holy Eucharist
10.30 Sung Eucharist (also Sunday School)
6.30 Choral Evensong

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

8.00 Morning Prayer 8.15 Holy Eucharist
5.00 Evening Prayer

Thursday

8.00 Morning Prayer 8.15 Holy Eucharist
10.30 Holy Eucharist
5.00 Evening Prayer

Friday

8.00 Morning Prayer 8.15 Holy Eucharist
7.00 Choral Evensong

Worship at St Martin-in-the-Gaer

Sunday 9.30 Holy Eucharist

Holding events at the cathedral



As part of the mission of the cathedral to open up access to the wider community, it is hoped that the flexibility now on offer will encourage interest from all sorts of groups, individuals and charities to hold events there. The chairs can be configured in many different ways – or removed altogether – to create a large and very beautiful space which would greatly enhance any sort of musical or theatrical performance, conference, exhibition or social event.

Further details and a scale of charges for the hire of the whole cathedral space and/or the hall are available from the Administrator enquiries@newportcathedral.org.uk or tel: 07933 627594.

Upcoming events at St Woolos Cathedral :

- Saturday 5th March - Plainsong Workshop - contact Emma Gibbins 07952 514117
- Saturday 12th March 12 noon - Music@StWoolos - Bute Clarinet Quartet
- Saturday 19th March - Diocesan Day of Prayer - all day in the Cathedral
- Lent 2016 - The Stations of the Cross: Exhibition of paintings by Nigel Pugh (open every day)
- Friday 8th April - Solemn Eucharist for St Woolos (Patronal Festival) 7pm
- Saturday 9th April - Music@StWoolos - 12 noon
- Monday 18th April - Friends of Newport Cathedral - Annual Lecture
- Saturday 23rd April - St Woolos Players Concert 7pm
- Sunday 8th May - Royal Welsh Association Service - 4pm
- Thursday 12th May - Choristers' Concert - 6pm

(Enquiries re concerts and recitals at St Woolos, to: brian.a.cox@sky.com)

Restaurant



Station Approach, Bassaleg

Junction 28 is a tastefully decorated converted railway station, with the lower part of the restaurant decked out to represent an old-fashioned railway carriage. The restaurant is tucked away in a quiet corner of picturesque Bassaleg, on the outskirts of Newport, overlooking the River Ebbw. We aim to give you an excellent dining experience.

Reservations 01633 891891

www.junction28.com enquiries@junction28.com

The Cathedral is open to visitors:

Monday to Thursday 8am until 5pm

Friday 8am until 8pm

Saturday 9am until 4pm

Sunday 10am until 8pm

News at St Woolos

New on the Cathedral Website (www.newportcathedral.org.uk) this Quarter:

- Click on Events/Diary to see the Cathedral's diary for the weeks and months ahead; you could, for example, check the date of an event, or the availability of the Cathedral or Hall.
- Click on Events/Gallery to see a slowly-growing collection of photos of recent or past events: feel free to submit any suitable photos to us via Email - contact@newportcathedral.org.uk

December 2015 saw a Photographic Exhibition by students of the University of South Wales portraying some aspects of the Cathedral community.

February 2016 The Bishop, Archdeacon and Dean visit our 'Link' Diocese of the Highveld in South Africa.

NEWPORT NIGHTSHELTER

The Newport Night Shelter website sums it up nicely: "During the coldest winter months, a group of Newport churches open their doors and hearts to welcome in the city's homeless from the streets. We provide a hot supper and drinks, a warm, safe bed for the night, toiletries, breakfast in the morning, and genuine friendship."

This year the Cathedral has joined the scheme and from the end of January, for two months, is taking its place in the weekly rota. Why do we do it? Graham Brown, the coordinator for St Woolos, writes: "The opening of a night shelter at St Woolos was to me the fulfilling of a Gospel requirement to feed and clothe the needy. And again, faith without works is dead."

When it was first agreed that we should join the project, there was concern that volunteers would be reluctant to come forward. We need twelve volunteers to cover each Wednesday night session - an evening slot, providing a welcome and a meal, three 'overnighters', and a morning slot to provide breakfast and clear up before the Cathedral's day begins. We had thirty volunteers! Training has been given, and the response from the volunteers after their first night shift has all been wonderfully positive.

Providing the evening meal might have been a real problem - Graham Brown again: "At present we cannot provide hot food to the public, so the Salvation Army provide a hot food run for us each Wednesday evening. They prepare, supply, cook and deliver, and for this they have my eternal thanks".

The scheme runs for the four coldest months of the year - yet the homeless remain, and must fend for themselves the rest of the year. Perhaps in time, with the help of more volunteers (could you be one?) Night Shelter will be able to extend its work. The final word goes to Graham: "At present we can only accommodate twelve guests and there are many who cannot get a place, and go hungry. Perhaps in the future we could offer hot food to these other people, alongside the Night Shelter. And even if you do not feel that you can work in the night shelter, please get behind us with prayer, support and love."

The Cathedral Shop is open :

Mon - Fri 2pm - 4pm, Sat 10am - 12 noon, Sun -before & after services

The shop sells a wide range of greetings cards for all occasions, gifts and jewellery as well as a children's corner.

'We have signed the Fair Trade Pledge'



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Who's Who at St Woolos

The Dean	The Very Revd Lister Tonge	01633 259627	listertonge@gmail.com
Precentor & Archdeacon of Newport	The Ven. Jonathan Williams	01633 215206	archdeacon.newport@churchinwales.org.uk
Canon Pastor	Canon Ray Hayter	01633527883	raymondhayter01@gmail.com
Associate Priest St Martin's	Revd Jennifer Mole	01633 258556	revcanjen63@btinternet.com
Associate Priest & Dir. of Ordinands	Revd Dr Paul Thompson	01633 252046	revpaulthompson@btinternet.com

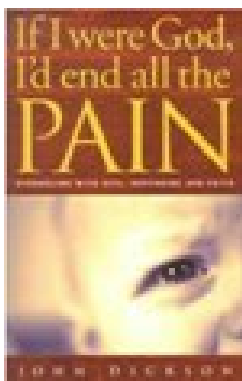


The Cathedral has recently been given a generous gift of a Cardiac Defibrillator, to be kept on the premises for emergency use. Members of the Cathedral team have been given training in its use, as well as instruction in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

The Book Corner

If I were God, I'd end all the pain: struggling with evil, suffering and faith by John Dickson (Matthias Media, 2001)

In the introduction, the author states that, although he does not consider he has particular expertise to answer this question, his greatest strength is the capacity to doubt, which was triggered for him, aged 9, when his father was killed in a plane crash. He makes the familiar observation that, whenever a terrible and painful human tragedy occurs, there is an almost universal tendency to say: "WHY? How can God let such a thing happen?"



Dickson goes on to say that, although the Bible does not have a final explanation of such events in the world, it does present us with the least incoherent one, namely that God has loving reasons for permitting suffering. He briefly examines the response to pain and suffering, from other world faiths – Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam (not Judaism)- as well as atheism, notably via Richard Dawkins whose views of "pitiless indifference" present an explanation that "cannot be lived". The Biblical perspective on pain, on the other hand, does not provide a solution to our pain but does offer a rhythm which allows us to question God and express doubt (see Psalm 22).

He then comes to what is, in my own view, the strongest section of this book, namely that God bestowed the gift of free will upon humankind – he designed humans to be independent, and to be able to truly live, but inevitably this can lead to violence, tyranny, poverty etc., as well as the seemingly random and cruel experience of pain. He cannot override our will, as we would then cease to be human.

Dickson's hardest chapter, for me, is his explanation of the divine judgement (on the Day of Judgement) when God pledges to recreate the universe and renew all nature – a message of hope to the bereaved. Finally, he points out the brutal suffering of God, in the person of Jesus on the cross; thus God had entered our pain and misery, and is able to identify with us and support us in our own journey.

This is a short book – only 71 pages – and can be read at a single sitting. Parts of it are a little theologically dense, but mostly it is written in accessible prose, with helpful anecdotes. I would certainly recommend it to anyone who seeks an answer to the question of the title.

Sian King

Please feel free to send us items of interest that relate to the Cathedral - its past, current activities, or news. Articles should be kept short (300 words or less, as a rule) - they may need to be edited prior to publication.

Contact: Brian or Sian King - contact@newportcathedral.org.uk